

Revised Statewide Guidance

Public
Comment ends
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Water Quality Trading Guidance



State of Idaho
Department of Environmental Quality

March 2016

Water Quality Pollutant Trading Guidance



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

July 2010



Draft Regional Recommendations for the Pacific Northwest on Water Quality Trading



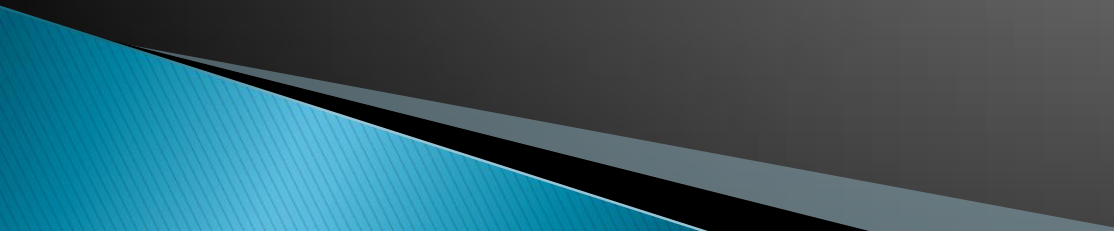
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Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Washington Department of Ecology

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Willamette Partnership, November 2012
Multi-State Agency Guidance for Water Quality Trading: Joint Regional Water Quality Trading Agreement (69-3A75-12-255)



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Purpose

- ▶ Contractual agreement to exchange pollution reductions between two parties in a business-like way.
- ▶ Designed to achieve and enhance TMDL reductions.
- ▶ Trading is voluntary.
- ▶ Trading should provide a net environmental benefit.

Frameworks vs. Plans

- ▶ *Trading framework*—Watershed-level documents approved by DEQ which acts as guidance on the details of trading processes and standards for a specific geographical area. Trading framework elements are enforceable only when incorporated into an NPDES permit.
- ▶ *Trading plan*—Specific incorporation of trading elements into a permit or other binding agreement.

Essential Safeguards

- ▶ Trades based in sound science and effectively accomplish regulatory and environmental goals.
- ▶ Accountability to confirm water quality improvements and verify compliance with CWA requirements.
- ▶ Trades must be consistent with Idaho WQS, NPDES permits, TMDL WLAs, and the CWA and its implementing regulations.

Trading Scenarios

- ▶ Point – Nonpoint Trading: NPS creates credits to sell to PS through BMP application.
- ▶ Point – Point Trading: PS creates credits to sell to other PS through increased pollution reduction.
- ▶ Existing discharges to TMDL waters.
- ▶ New or expanding discharges to TMDL waters.

Framework/Plan Development



Framework Components

- ▶ Eligible trading participants
- ▶ Trading area
- ▶ Baseline
- ▶ Credit quantification
- ▶ Trading ratios
- ▶ Risk mitigation
- ▶ Allowable BMPs
- ▶ Project pre-screening
- ▶ Credit life
- ▶ Project design, O&M, performance
- ▶ Project verification
- ▶ Credit registration & tracking
- ▶ Permit conditions
- ▶ Adaptive management

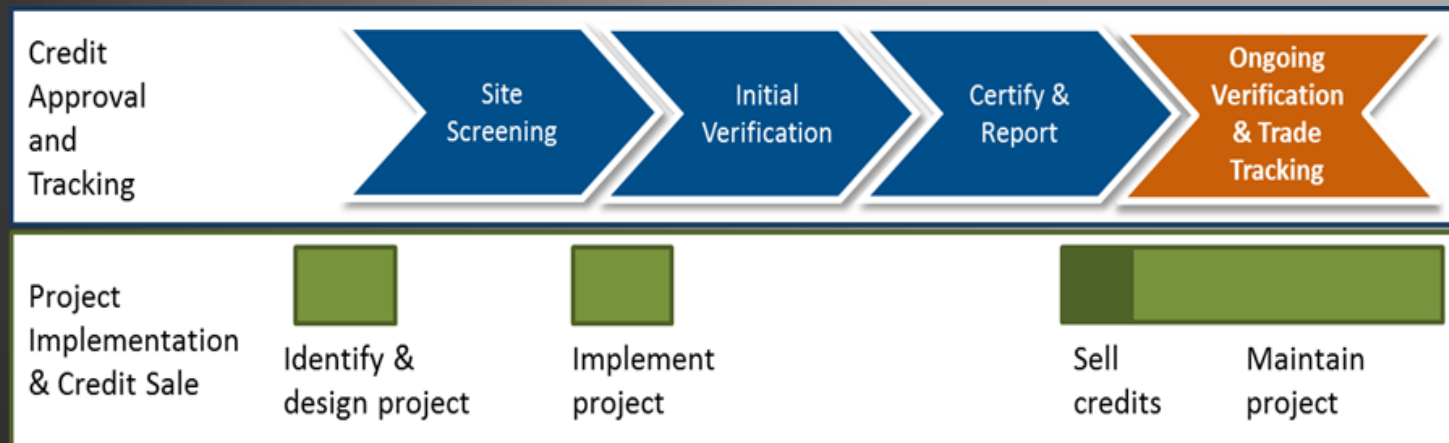
BMP Approval

- ▶ All credit generating BMPs (or project types) and quantification methods must be approved by DEQ.
- ▶ Require BMP Package

Package includes:

- ▶ BMP description, where applied
- ▶ Side effects, benefits
- ▶ Monitoring requirements
- ▶ Design, install, O&M requirements
- ▶ Quantification, efficiency, uncertainty
- ▶ Documentation

Credit Tracking



Questions?

